

Form number (11/177)

U.S. Department of the Interior

## PART I

## APPLICATION FOR EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

**DRAFT**

Type or print with ballpoint pen. READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING.  
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO APPROPRIATE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE.

1 Name and mailing address of owner  
 name THE TERMINAL CORPORATION  
 street 211 E. PLEASANT ST.  
 city BALTIMORE state MARYLAND zip code 21202  
 Telephone number (during day) 301-539-8560 ~~SEE XXXXX~~ number XXXXXX  
 I.D.

2 Name of district as listed in the National Register  
FELLS POINT  
 Address of property (if different from mailing address)  
 street 1601-11 THAMES ST.  
 city BALTIMORE state MARYLAND zip code 21231

3 I hereby certify that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.

Allan R. Menzies  
 Signature ALLAN R. MENZIES, PRESIDENT Date 4/11/78

4 Property documentation  
 Briefly describe the general exterior appearance of the structure: include appropriate site features and outbuildings, number of stories, exterior building materials, alterations (with appropriate dates).

SEE ATTACHED

Briefly describe distinctive interior architectural features or spaces: include hardware, stairways, woodwork, fireplaces, etc.

SEE ATTACHED

List important persons, events, or attributes associated with the property: include architect and builder, if known, past owners, etc.

SEE ATTACHED

Location: ☒ original site ☐ moved date(s) of construction: 1899-1900  
 Include recent photographs showing the present condition of the property. Photographs should show all street elevations and distinctive architectural details, either on the interior or exterior. Photographs are not returnable.

## For office use only

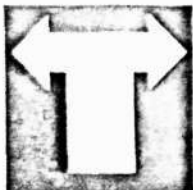
The property described above is included within the boundaries of a National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.

John N. Pearce 5/3/78  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Date

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service (36 CFR Part 67) and:

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure.  
☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.

Keeper of the National Register Date  
 Certified Historic Structure number  
 Date listed in the National Register



# THE TERMINAL CORPORATION

B-4003

211 E. PLEASANT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. 21202

Area Code 301 • Telephone Number 539-8560 • TWX 710-234-1611

## APPLICATION FOR EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

### 4. PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION.

HISTORIC NAME: BOND STREET WHARF

COMMON NAME: BOND STREET WHARF OF THE TERMINAL CORPORATION, (formerly THE TERMINAL WAREHOUSE COMPANY OF BALTIMORE CITY.)

LOCATION: 1601-11 THAMES ST., BALTIMORE, MD., 21231  
Ward 2, Sec. 6, Block 1827, Lots 3 and 4.

CONSTRUCTED: 1899-1912. ARCHITECT AND BUILDER UNKNOWN, BUT BEING RESEARCHED.

DESCRIPTION: - Exterior

Six-story brick and steel building, rectangular in shape, occupying the southwestern section of Block 1827, Bond & Thames Sts. Its common bond, brick exterior is accented by a brownstone foundation on the northern and western facades. The building occupies an area of approximately 32,000 Sq. Ft., extending to the water-line of Baltimore's harbor on the northwest branch of the Patapsco River.

The northern, or Thames St., facade is six bays wide. The main entrance is a vestibule door, both doors capped by a glass tympanum. A flight of white stone steps, very characteristic of East Baltimore, leads up to it. The windows are recessed, segmental arched windows with stone sills, with 12/12 lights. The upper five floors have symmetrical belts of three windows with 12/12 lights the same as the first floor.

The western facade is eighteen bays wide. There are eighteen recessed doorways set in the rusticated brownstone wall, with brick arches. The doorways are set at loading level from the ground to accommodate railroad cars. A metal overhang runs the length of the building to protect freight as it is being unloaded, and railroad tracks run the whole length to the wharf. The second floor has a belt of ten windows, the other floors, nine, all with 12/12 lights, in symmetrical rows.

The eastern facade contains nine brick, recessed loading bays with curtain doors. A metal overhang runs the length of this side of the building, as do railroad tracks. A wrought iron fire-escape heightens the visual plan of this facade, exemplifying the nineteenth century interplay between art and technology. All five floors contain symmetrical rows of nine windows, 12/12 style, flanked by metal shutters.





# THE TERMINAL CORPORATION

B-4003

211 E. PLEASANT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. 21202

Area Code 301 • Telephone Number 539-8560 • TWX 710-234-1611

Page 2.

## DESCRIPTION - Exterior (Continued)

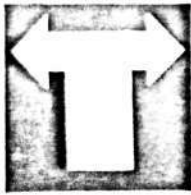
The southern facade, rear of the building, is at the water-line. The brick exterior contains four loading bays at wharf-edge. The five floors above three windows ~~across~~. A second wrought-iron fire escape runs down the rear of the building on the east corner. The wharf extends the southern facade of the building to the government pierhead line. Metal sheds were added to an original wharf shed in about 1928 to accomodate more covered freight than the warehouse could hold. Vessels could dock on either side of the wharf.

A wide driveway extends the eastern side of the property, which permitted drays (now trucks) to enter and load. At the foot of this driveway is a small brick building - the boiler room for the warehouse. It is of wood beam construction, one story high, with recessed brick arched windows and stone sills. Over the door is a stone bearing a Masonic emblem of compass and rule, and the date 1812. The stone was incorporated in the building to mark a pre-existing building, it is thought.

## DESCRIPTION - Interior

One L-shaped portion of the first floor is occupied by the office. The walls and ceiling are plastered. The rest of the building is loading and storage area divided into 16 foot square bays. The building is divided into two sections, known as "A" House and "B" House, separated only by a firewall. Noteworthy in each section of the warehouse are the high ceilings; the spiral iron staircases from the sixth to the first floor; the spiral chutes to carry bagged merchandise, such as grain and sugar, from all floors; and the wrought iron cages for the elevators. The brick walls are exposed throughout the building. The floors are of Georgia pine.





# THE TERMINAL CORPORATION

211 E. PLEASANT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. 21202

Area Code 301 • Telephone Number 539-8560 • TWX 710-234-1611

B-4003

Page 3.

## SIGNIFICANCE

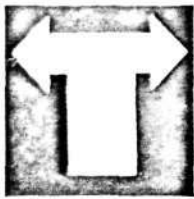
Fells Point is in the National Register of Historic Places. It was founded in 1730 by William Fell and his brother, Edward Fell. Edward bought large tracts of land in the area. William, who followed his brother to America from Lancashire, England, founded a small shipyard at Fells Point to build two-masted sloops. Fells Point soon became a thriving town and a shipping center - an auspicious beginning to the Port of Baltimore - one of the largest in the world. The town continued to flourish with periodic declines and rebirths as the Port of Baltimore changed and developed, and though it is no longer the pivot of the vast industrial harbor, it is in process of a new and exciting renaissance, both cultural and industrial. The Bond Street Wharf is an excellent example. It is still in use after 78 years of continuous operation by the same Company since its construction in 1899 - 1900.

The charter of The Terminal Warehouse Company of Baltimore City is dated 1893. The Bond Street Wharf, as it was called from its opening in 1900, was the second of two warehouses constructed at the turn of the century: The one in Metropolitan Baltimore is a last example of the old wood-beam construction; the one at Fells Point a first example of the new steel-beam construction. It is a superior example of the industrial architecture which followed the Civil War. Bond Street Wharf was intended to be a fine, enduring building, as well as a utilitarian one. It is particularly interesting, in the perspective of time, because of the growth of two individual sections of the City - the Fells Point area east of Jones Falls, and the Metropolitan area west, and the fact that the Board of Directors of the Company saw the advantage of a foot in both camps.

The first Board of Directors was an interesting group of well-known business men in Baltimore City. Henry James, the president of the Citizen's National Bank, was also the founder of a flourishing lumber firm at Fells Point bearing his name, and the builder of "Tower Hill", his fine Catonsville residence. Charles England was President of the Chamber of Commerce and also head of Charles England & Co., Grain Merchants. England was also a director of the Eutaw Savings Bank, another old Baltimore Institution. George C. Wilkins was the Railroad Agent in Baltimore. There were three other directors: Robert H. Powell, who was the first president of the Company, John L. Rodgers, and Robert M. Wylie, also a Baltimore Merchant. It was this group of men who saw, in 1899,







# THE TERMINAL CORPORATION

211 E. PLEASANT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. 21202

Area Code 301 • Telephone Number 539-8560 • TWX 710-234-1611

B-4003

Page 4.

## SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

the possibilities of a large harbor warehouse at Brown's Wharf, Fells Point, where Mr. George S. Brown, president of Alexander Brown & Son, had organized, in 1865, a company to establish a coastwise Steamship Line and built the wharf. It must be remembered that during the Civil War Baltimore's sympathies were divided, and while the official and patriotic position was on the side of the North a great many business men were impatient to get the war over and re-establish trade to and from the Southern ports. Brown's Wharf was the point of departure for cargo to Charleston, New Orleans, Havana, as well as across the Atlantic. The Board of Directors persuaded the Northern Central Railway Co., with which The Terminal Warehouse was closely connected, to purchase Brown's Wharf and construct a new six-story warehouse on the site. The Wharf was purchased from Alexander Brown & Son together with several other parcels of land fronting on Thames Street (formerly Fell St.). In this regard it is interesting to note that, in 1859, one of these parcels was owned by a partnership - John Glenn and William Fell Giles.

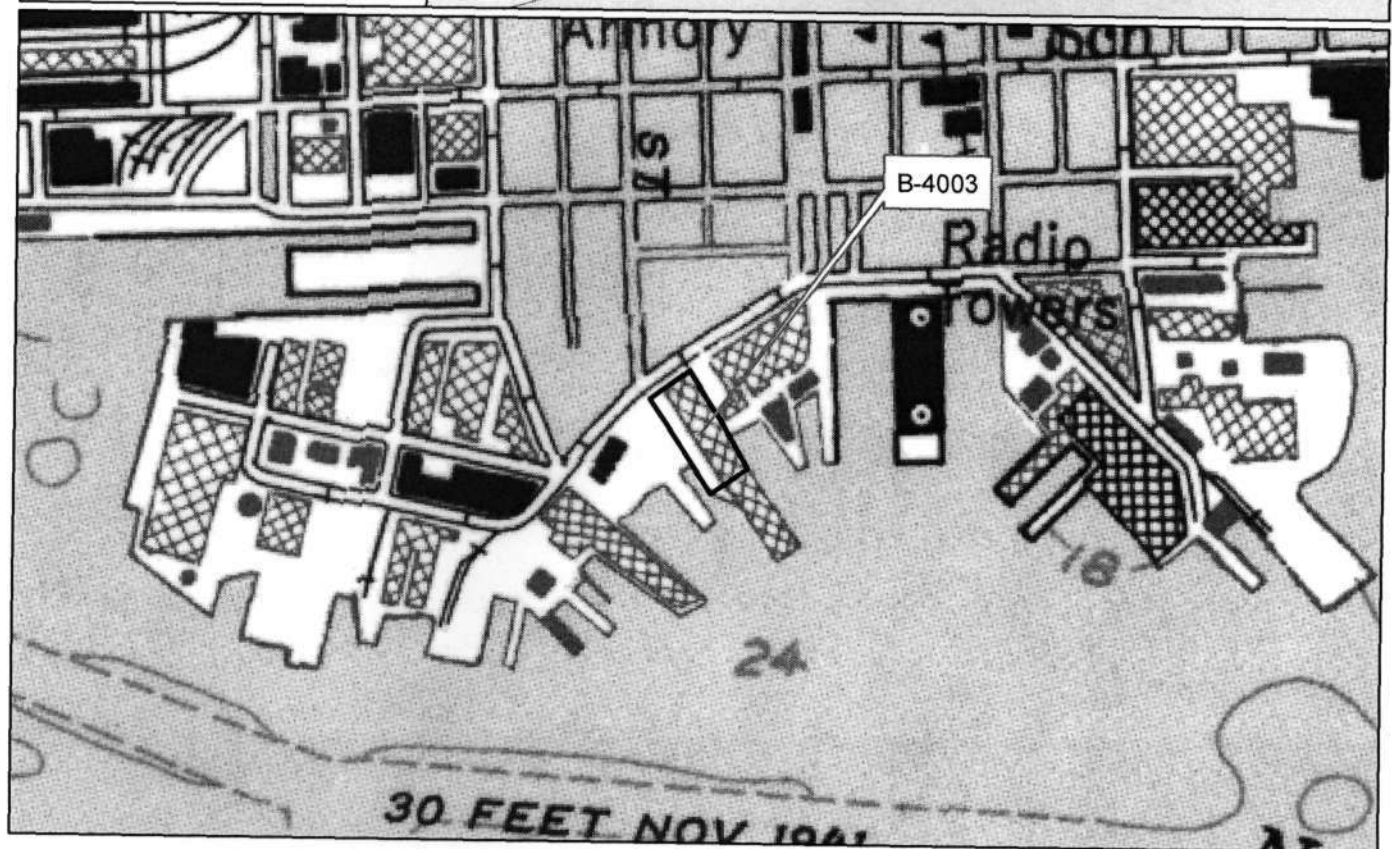
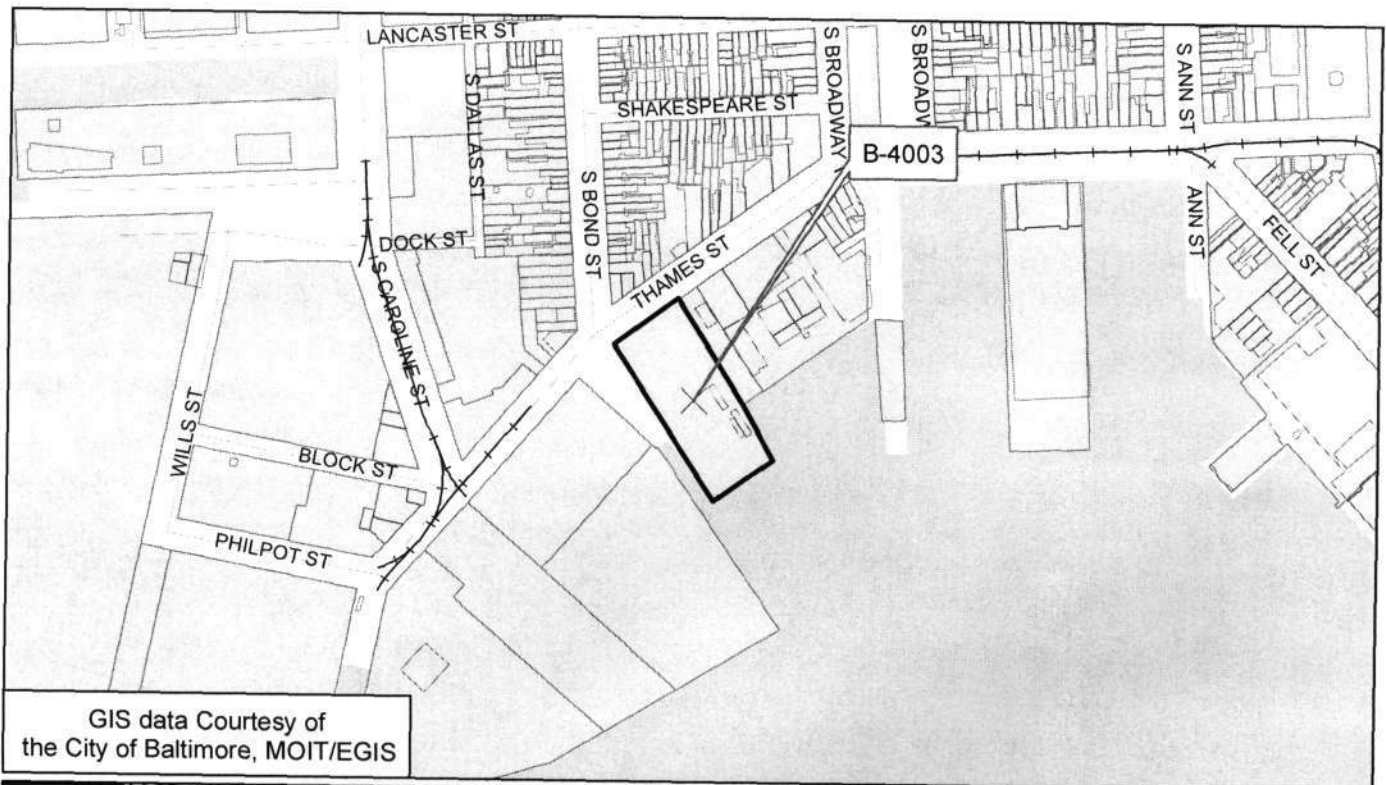
After the warehouse was constructed and the Northern Central Railway Company had laid track down both sides of it to the wharf edge, they leased it to The Terminal Warehouse Company of Baltimore City on September 1, 1900, and the lease was renewed continuously until 1948 when The Terminal Warehouse bought it outright.

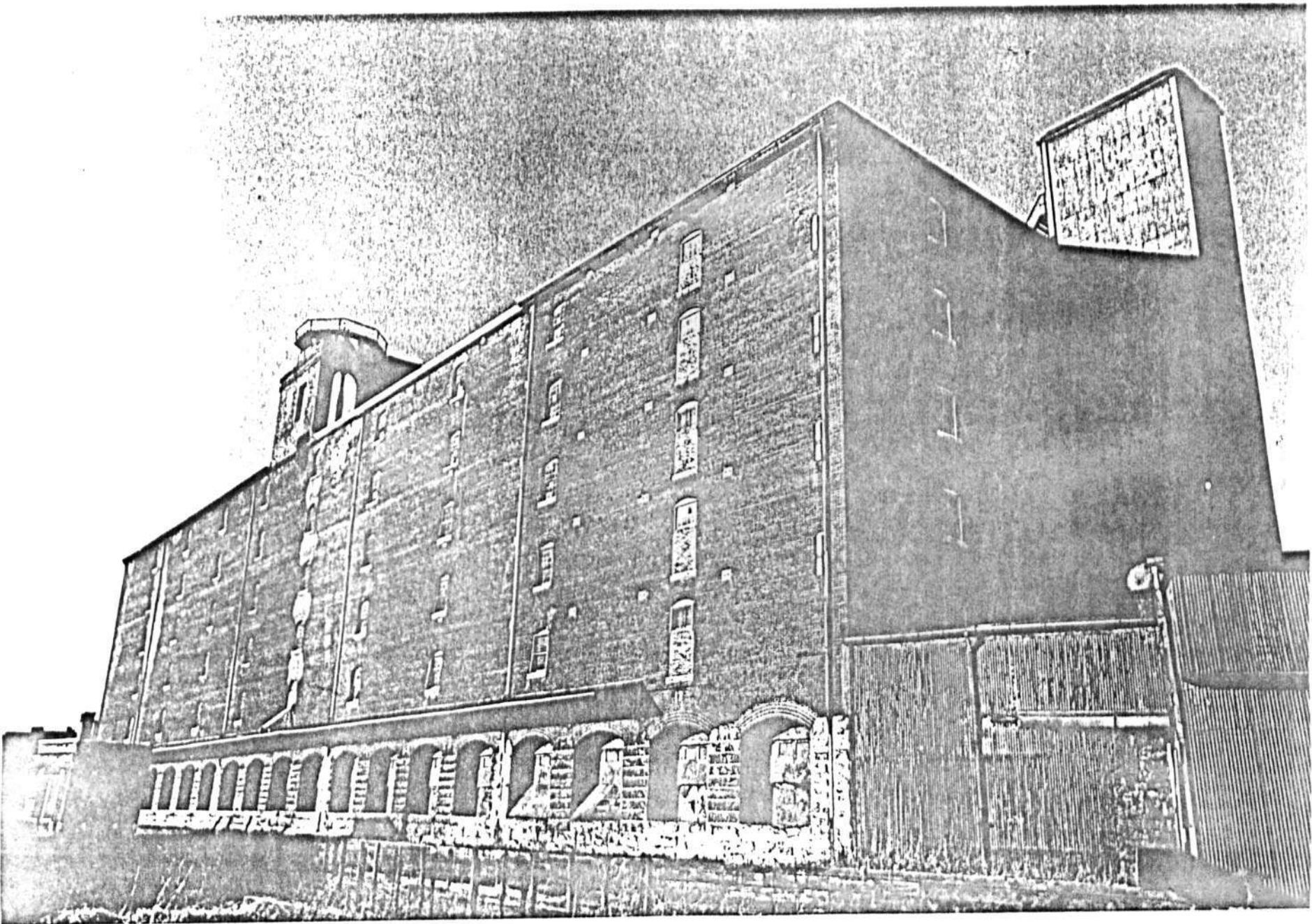
On the west corner of the building an old cannon, believed to date from the War of 1812, stood for years. It is on loan at present to the Fells Point Museum. Another interesting artifact is the stone set in the boiler room building on the east side of the warehouse. It bears the date 1812 and the Masonic symbol of compass and rule. It is believed that it belonged to a dwelling previously on the property.

It is also of interest to note that among the original stockholders of The Terminal Warehouse Company were J. Hall Pleasants, a member of the Commission which completed Baltimore's beautiful City Hall in 1869, and William R. Howard, direct descendant of John Eager Howard, the Maryland hero of the Revolutionary War.



B-4003  
Bond Street Wharf  
1601-1611 Thames Street  
Block 1827 Lot 003  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4003